

CLIFF STEARNS

6TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

WASHINGTON:2370 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0906(202) 225-5744
FAX: (202) 225-3973

www.house.gov/cliffst

**ORIGINAL****Congress of the United States****House of Representatives****Washington, DC 20515-0906****February 2, 2005****COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE****SUBCOMMITTEES:****COMMERCE, TRADE, AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION, CHAIRMAN
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
THE INTERNET, VICE CHAIRMAN
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS****COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS****SUBCOMMITTEES:****HEALTH****AIR FORCE CAUCUS, CO-CHAIRMAN****RECEIVED**The Honorable Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEB - 3 2005

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary98-120
00-96
00-2

Dear Chairman Powell:

It is my understanding that you are considering ruling on the issue of full multicast must-carry rights for broadcasters in digital television in the upcoming weeks.

During my time on the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, I have worked extensively with broadcasters and the cable industry on these complex and controversial issues. My experience with local broadcasters has led me to expressly support reasonable must-carry and multicast rights, because I believe that these allow independent broadcasters throughout my state and the country to provide diverse programming that might not otherwise be available. Our nation's cable companies provide the valuable spectrum needed and I believe they are providing a critical public service. While I support must-carry rights for broadcasters, I do remain sensitive to the use of government mandates that may overburden our cable systems.

In order to maintain this diversity of programming that the original must-carry legislation was designed to promote and which I hope continues in the age of digital television, I respectfully ask that the Commission consider issuing a ruling which provides as much of an adequate and proportionate voice for broadcasters on digital cable systems as possible.

The Commission has my full confidence that it can strike a fair and equitable balance between broadcasters and the cable industry, and I look forward to hearing from you on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Cliff Stearns
United States RepresentativeNo. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE☐ **OCALA**
115 S.E. 26TH AVENUE
OCALA, FL 34471
(352) 351-8777☐ **GAINESVILLE**
5700 S.W. 34TH STREET, #425
GAINESVILLE, FL 32608
(352) 351-4000☐ **ORANGE PARK**
1726 KINGSLEY AVENUE, #8
ORANGE PARK, FL 32073
(904) 268-3203

RECEIVED TIME FEB. 3. 12:03PM

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

PRINT TIME FEB. 3. 12:04PM